

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 09789 270551Z

12

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 IO-03 RSR-01 /058 W

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P 270332Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7584

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANILA 9789

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RP, ID, MY

SUBJECT: MUSLIM PROBLEMS IN THE SOUTH

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS GAVE ME A LONG EXPOSITION OF HIS VIEWS ON THE MOSLEM PROBLEM DURING OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 26. IN HIS MIND, THERE IS A DISTINCT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROBLEMS HE FACES IN THE SULUS AND THOSE IN MINDANAO. I SHALL THEREFORE REPORT HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THESE ISSUES IN TWO SEPARATE CABLES.

2. ON THE SULUS, MARCOS SAYS CATEGORICALLY THAT THE KEY TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION LIES WITH TUN MUSTAPHA. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, HE SAID THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THE SULU PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED IF HE CAN MAKE A DEAL WITH TUN MUSTAPHA. HE SAID HE IS APPROACHING SUCH A DEAL THROUGH TWO SEPARATE CHANNELS - THE FIRST IS DIRECTLY WITH TUN MUSTAPHA. THE SECOND IS THROUGH THE INDONESIAN-MALAYSIAN-PHILIPPINE TALKS. ALTHOUGH HE IS USING PALAEZ FOR THE LATTER, TRIANGULAR TALKS, HE IS DEALING WITH TUN MUSTAPHA BILATERALLY THROUGH A "PRIVATE CHANNEL" WHICH HE DID NOT IDENTIFY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANILA 09789 270551Z

3. HE SAID HE HAS TOLD MUSTAPHA THAT, IF THE LATTER WILL CEASE INTERFERING IN SULU, THE PHILIPPINES WILL FORMALLY WITHDRAW ITS CLAIM TO SABAH. HE HAS ALSO TOLD MUSTAPHA THAT, IF SABAH WISHES TO BE INDEPENDENT, THE PHILIPPINES WILL SUPPORT SUCH AN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA. HE SEEMED ENCOURAGED FROM HIS BILATERAL CONTACTS THAT AN UNDERSTANDING ON SABAH COULD BE REACHED WHICH WOULD SETTLE THE SULU SECESSION MOVEMENT.

4. IN THE TRIANGULAR CONTEXT, HE SPOKE VERY HIGHLY OF SUHARTO'S EFFORTS AND SYMPATHETICALLY OF RAZAK. HE BLAMED MUCH OF HIS PROBLEMS ON GHAZALI, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A "PICADOR." THERE WAS A HING IN HIS ACCOUNT OF PHILIPPINE ACTIONS WHICH SUGGESTED THAT HIS OFFER TO SUPPORT A SABAH INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT WAS A RIPOSTE TO GHAZALI'S "PICS" AND INTENDED MERELY AS NUISANCE VALUE.

5. HE SAID HE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE HIS TWO-PRONGED APPROACH TO THE SABAH-SULU ISSUE, AND THOUGH SUHARTO WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A SUMMIT SESSION FAIRLY SOON. HE BLAMED THE LIMITED PROGRESS OF THE HONG KONG PRELIMINARY TALKS ON THE OBSTRUCTIVE PRESENCE OF GHAZALI.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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**Subject:** MUSLIM PROBLEMS IN THE SOUTH  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, RP, ID, MY  
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